# Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

## DR. PUSHPENDRA RANA

**Indian Forest Service Officer & Champion of Pastoral Mobility**

From Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India



## ABOUT HIM

- Respected community elder, environmentalist, and former educationist from Bute Ward, Wajir County
- Has championed community-led rangeland restoration for more than 40 years
- Continues to mentor young people, promote peacebuilding, and advocate for sustainable pastoralism

## THE LAND HE RESTORES

- Comprises savanna grasslands, shrublands, and Acacia woodlands
- Community-owned grazing lands managed under customary tenure systems
- Supports camels, cattle, goats, sheep, wildlife, and pastoral livelihoods

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

**Advanced Pastoral Mobility**

- Led major reforms to grazing policies and secured recognition of traditional pastoral migration routes and seasonal grazing areas

**Protected Himalayan Grasslands**

- Safeguarded alpine grasslands by preventing inappropriate afforestation and fragmentation of grazing landscapes

**Promoted Science-Based Restoration**

- Applied ecological research to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable grazing for soil carbon storage and ecosystem health

**Strengthened Pastoral Livelihoods**

- Supported pastoral communities through improved livestock services, digital identity systems, and market opportunities

**Built Strategic Partnerships**

- Mobilized national and international collaboration to invest in resilient pastoral economies and value chains